NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

PUBLISHED BY THOMAS W. SHEPARD, ROGERS' BUILDINGS, CONGRESS STREET, (FOURTH DOOR FROM STATE STREET.)

VOL. II. BOSTON, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1823. No. 6.

Farmer's and Gardener's Remembrancer.

[BY THE EDITOR.]

ON THE CULTIVATION OF WHEAT.

(Concluded from page 34.)

The greatest care should be exercised with regard to the kind, quality and preparation of seed wheat. There are many varieties of wheat, but winter wheat, in the United States, is generally distinguished by only two appellations, red wheat, and white wheat, of which the latter is held in highest estimation.

In preparing your seed wheat the first thing to be attended to is to clear it perfectly from every injurious foreign substance. "One error here may mar our whole system, and render our skill productive of as much evil as good. On poor and worn out land the evil of sowing a mixture of impure seed, with grain or grass seed, would be great—but where the ground is in high order, the crop is more injured; the noxious plants take firmer hold, and are more difficult to be eradicated."* Indeed, it would be better for a farmer to pick over his seed wheat by single handfuls, and make a riddle of his fingers, than to sow cockle, darnel, tares, wild turnip seeds, and other vegetable nuisances, which are as intrusive as unwelcome, as tenacious of life as they are unworthy of existence. The first preparation therefore should be to screen, winnow and riddle the grain till perfectly freed from these and other improper ingredients. When this is thoroughly accomplished, washing and steeping, for the purpose of preventing smut, should meet attention. The first step in the processes to be instituted against smut, as recommended by Sir John Sinclair, is "to run the grain *very gently* through a riddle, when not only the smut balls, but the imperfect grains and the seeds of weeds will float, and may be skimmed off at pleasure." The same author enumerates as modes by which smut may be prevented, 1. The use of pure cold water and lime. 2 Boiling water and lime. 3. Water impregnated with salt. 4. Urine pickle. 5. Ley of wood ashes. 6. A solution of arsenic. 7. A solution of blue vitriol. It seems that almost any acrid, corrosive or poisonous application will secure a clean crop, if properly used for that purpose.

Mr. Arthur Young sowed fourteen beds with the same wheat seed, which was black with smut. The first bed was sown with this wheat without washing and had 377 smutty kernels. A bed sowed with seed washed in clean water produced 325 smutty kernels—Washed in lime water 43 do.—Washed in a lie of wood ashes 31 do.—Washed in arsenic and salt mixture 28 do.—Steeped in lime water four hours 2 do.—Steeped in lie four hours 3 do.—Steeped in arsenic four hours 1 do. Again, that which was steeped in lie, as before mentioned, twelve hours, had none; and that which was steeped in the same kind of lie twenty-four hours, had none; that also which was steeped twenty-four hours in lime water, had none; that steeped in arsenic twenty-four hours had 5.

* See a communication by O. Fiske, Esq. New England Farmer, vol. i, page 222.

A correspondent of the New England Farmer (who is, we believe, a practical and scientific agriculturist, and whose statements are worthy of implicit confidence) with the signature *Berkshire*, in giving directions for preparing seed wheat observes, "the only successful course is to prepare the seed about ten days before sowing time. This is done by selecting clean and plump seed, passing it through water in a tub, about half a bushel at a time, and washing it and skimming off the matter that floats; then empty it into a basket to drain, then lay it on a clean floor and rake in two quarts of slacked lime and one quart of plaister to the bushel, and if too dry sprinkle on water and continue to stir it until all is covered with the lime and plaister. In this way you may proceed until you have prepared your whole seed. Let it remain in a heap one day, then spread it and move it daily, until it becomes perfectly dry; it is then fit to sow, and you may sow it if the land should happen to be quite wet."

We shall now speak of the liability of wheat to become winter killed. The author of Letters of Agricola states as an objection to the cultivation of wheat in Nova Scotia, "its liability to be thrown out in the spring, and thus subjecting the farmer to serious inconveniences, and often disappointment of a crop. Grasses are not exempt from the same hazard; and the hopes of the year are thus blasted by a cause, which, in many cases, will admit of remedy, in all of alleviation. I am not sure but sowing the wheat seed under furrow at least four or five inches deep in September, in order that it may extend its roots and take a firm hold of the soil before the approach of winter, and rolling it in the spring with the box heavily loaded would obviate the evils of our climate, and enable us to cultivate that grain according to the improved modes of England. It ought to recollected that even there, about sixty years ago, winter wheat was not of general cultivation, and the heaving of the soil was accounted a powerful obstacle to its success. In Scotland, too, during the same period, spring wheat almost universally prevailed; and her northern and bleak position was thought to be incapable of any change to the better, and utterly unfriendly to autumnal semination. The zeal and industry of British farmers, combined with their skill, have baffled all these gloomy predictions, and taught us at once to copy the example of our sires, and not to despair in the race of improvement."

A method, according to the same author, made use of in Norfolk, Eng. to guard wheat against the changes and inclemency of winter and spring, is to adopt the following rotation. "After a turnip crop, they sow barley the second year with clover seeds; the third year they cut hay, and plough down the ley, and sow their winter wheat on the matted sod.—The roots of the grass bind the soil, and prevent it from heaving, which is much akin to the same effect produced by the tangled and bound surface of our new and cleared lands." This fact may suggest another inducement to sow wheat next in rotation after clover as has been recommended.

* See New England Farmer, vol. i, page 275.

It is well known that our lands, where the soil is at all suitable, will produce good crops of wheat when first cleared from their native growth of wood; but after having been tilled for some years, they generally yield wheat with difficulty, and it is often found impossible to raise it by any of the modes commonly adopted for wheat culture. In most parts of Massachusetts, and in some parts of New Hampshire and Vermont, the farmers scarcely ever attempt to raise wheat, and still more rarely succeed when they do attempt it. Yet, we believe wheat was a common and profitable crop in those places in the early period of their settlement. In process of time, however, the land became exhausted of its wheat-bearing faculty, and our farmers were forced nearly to forego its cultivation. The same variations and appearances have likewise been observed in Europe. Wheat countries, by continued cultivation, have become almost incapable of yielding wheat. The cause and remedy of this partial barrenness, this falling off, with regard to particular plants, was alike involved in obscurity, till modern discoveries in chemistry threw light on the subject. It has been found that the texture of every soil is defective unless there is a mixture of three kinds of earth, viz. clay, sand, and *lime;* and that lime, in some of its combinations, exists in wheat both in the straw and kernel. In some soils, fertile in other respects, lime may either have no existence, or be found in very minute portions, and be soon exhausted. If lime be a necessary constituent of wheat, and is not in the soil where we attempt to raise wheat, it must be supplied by art, or wheat will not grow. Or if native lime exists in the soil, in small quantities, the land may bear wheat till the lime is exhausted, and then become incapable of producing that plant, till a fresh supply of lime, marle, pulverized bones, or some other calcarious substance is added.—Mr. Young says, (Letters of Agricola, p. 299,) "it cannot be denied, that since the plentiful use of lime has been adopted, lands in Europe will produce wheat which otherwise were incapable of bearing it, and quotes several instances in proof of this assertion. Dr. Anderson likewise gives an account of a field, which had a top dressing of lime for the purpose of raising wheat, but the lime, by accident, was not applied to a small patch of the field, and in that patch there was no crop, while every part of the field to which the lime was applied produced wheat luxuriantly. It would be easy to adduce many more instances to prove that lime in Great Britain is considered not only useful but indispensable for the production of wheat. A British farmer, we believe, rarely undertakes to raise wheat *without* the use of lime, and an American farmer as rarely undertakes to raise it *with* the use of that substance for manure.

If the foregoing premises are correct it would seem not impossible, and indeed scarcely improbable, that by the judicious use of lime, or other calcarious substances, wheat may be as well raised in New England as in the Western

States. The subject is certainly of very great importance, and deserves repeated experiments.

It will be objected against the use of lime, 1st, that it is too dear to be used for manure, and 2dly, that our farmers do not know how to apply it, and as it is a powerful substance it may do more hurt than good, unless in the hands of a chemist, or one practically acquainted with its operation. With regard to the dearness of lime, we are informed that there is no want of lime-stone in almost every part of the United States; and probably, by proper search, many more lime-stone quarries might be discovered in New England than are at present known. And the price of lime would doubtless be diminished by increasing the demand, because if great quantities were wanted for agricultural purposes, a greater number of persons would find their account in making a business of manufacturing it; improvements would be introduced in the processes connected with its manufacture, and of course it would be afforded cheaper. Besides, small quantities would alone be needed for the purpose of furnishing that calcarious matter which nature inclines to incorporate into the substance of wheat, clover, &c. and probably a top dressing of two or three bushels to the acre would be of essential benefit, though doubtless more would, generally, be preferable. Mr. Young says a small quantity of quick lime scattered on the surface of lands newly cleared, will prove highly beneficial during the whole length of time they remain untilled. Thirty bushels of shells [lime fresh from the kiln] to the acre, slacked into a fine powder, will produce the most surprising effects, if not on the first crop of wheat, at all events on the verdure, luxuriance, and quality of the future pasture."* A writer in the *Museum Rusticum*, an English work, says "that he sows his wheat without laying on any manure, but early in the spring gives a top dressing of twenty bushels of lime, pulverized, and mixed intimately with forty bushels of sand, and if the weather be dry, he doubles the quantity of sand." We are disposed to believe that at least lime enough for light top dressings might be easily procured by almost every cultivator in the Union. And such light dressings, if our theory is correct, would be all that is *indispensable* to the production of wheat.

With regard to the mode of applying lime, nothing can be more simple. It should be evenly spread, after being water slacked, on the surface of the soil, and not ploughed in, or if ploughed in it should be with a very shallow furrow, because its tendency is to sink below the reach of cultivation. If used in a quick or burning state it will be safest to mix it with about double its quantity of sand, loam, clay, or some other material. The additional material may be made to correspond with the wants of the soil to which it is applied. Thus, if the soil has too much clay, mix sand with your lime. If too much sand mix finely pulverized clay, &c.

It is said that British farmers apply lime in great quantities directly from the kiln in its most caustic state, even to land which is replete with putrescent or vegetable manure, and run the risque of consuming or wasting the manure by its corrosive qualities. But the soil of G. Britain is generally wetter than ours, and of course the lime sooner becomes mild. Besides, there is a great difference in the strength of lime, and that of the United States may be, generally speaking, stronger than the English lime. In short, we should advise every farmer to use quick lime as manure, in small quantities at first, mixed with a large proportion of earth, or some other substance to *dilute it*, and thus take care not to burn his seed, his fingers, or his growing vegetables. And with these precautions we would make use of it for wheat *as a top dressing in spring*. We would likewise try it mixed with wood ashes, together with earth, for we have been told by a practical farmer that ashes and lime form a union much more valuable than either separate.

We will now close our remarks with but one further observation. The only use of burning lime at all for manure is to make it easier to reduce it to a very fine powder. It supplies no food for vegetables while in its quick or caustic state. Pounded lime-stones, the plaster of old walls, &c. if made fine enough, are quite as efficacious as fresh lime, in proportion to the carbonate of lime, or limy substance they contain.

* Letters of Agricola.

FOR THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

BLIGHT ON PEAR TREES,

With a notice of an article on the same subject in the Northampton Gazette.

For twenty years past pear trees throughout the United States have been subject, in midsummer, to a disease of a very extraordinary nature. Sometimes one limb, sometimes nearly the whole tree, has appeared, with all its fruit standing, to perish in forty-eight hours without any apparent cause. Gardeners called it "fire blight," and attributed it to lightning, but as no violence appeared upon the tree, as none of these terrific effects were perceived, which always accompany that powerful and destructive, though probably highly useful instrument of nature, I was led to doubt whether electricity had any share in the mischief. I was pleased to see that some gentleman in Northampton had adopted Professor Peck's solution, because it proved, that scientific researches, though not *immediately* noticed, are ultimately useful.

As the pear tree is very valuable, and in all its varieties furnishes most delicious fruit from July to May, I think it a duty to state the history of the discovery made by Professor Peck, and the certainty of success which must follow the adoption of his, I will not call it theory, but discovery. My neighbors had long been afflicted by this scourge. I had been fortunately exempt from it. At last one of my most healthy and valuable trees was attacked—nearly half the tree perished in a night. I could perceive no violence, no symptom of electric force. I was convinced that it was the effect of some internal enemy. I instantly sawed off all the limbs affected, and proceeded to examine them. I found at last the enemy, not *at the point* where death ensued, but some inches below it. The insect was very small, apparently incapable of such extensive mischief, but the effect was certain, and the manner of producing that effect was obvious. It had eaten a complete circle of the alburnum or sap-wood not exceeding the size of a knitting needle, so as completely to intercept the passage of the sap. I found the insect in three different limbs, and not in the larva but the perfect state. It was not however prepared in point of strength to issue forth, and by its eggs to deposit the means of new depredations. I carried it over to Professor Peck, and hence arose his account of the insect, which proved to be of the race of wood eaters, though a new and undescribed one. The most important *fact* however is, and it is by *facts* alone that gardeners and farmers must be governed, that by steadily pursuing the system of cutting off the limb many inches below the apparent injury and burning it, I have extirpated it from my estate. A FARMER.

Roxbury, Sept. 1823.

FOR THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

MR. EDITOR—Within a few years I have devoted some time and attention to the cultivation of an orchard. If I am correct in my view of the subject, a good orchard is the most valuable part of a farm, and the farmer who neglects to cultivate one may with propriety be said to neglect an important branch of good husbandry.

Five years ago I selected a piece of land to be devoted exclusively to an orchard. It has naturally a good soil, and descends a little to the east. It was somewhat rocky; many of the rocks being so large and heavy as to render it necessary to blow them in order to remove them. I cleared the rocks all off so that not one was to be seen on the piece above the surface of the ground. I enclosed this piece of ground with a substantial stone wall, and then ploughed and planted it with potatoes. After digging the potatoes, I again ploughed and harrowed it, then marked out the rows for the trees, being very careful to have them exactly straight each way. I then dug the holes for the trees, making them four feet in diameter, and 12 or 15 inches in depth, taking care to lay the top and bottom of what I took out each by itself. About the first of November I set out my trees, being careful in taking them up to injure the roots as little as possible. Into each hole, after placing the roots of the tree, I put three pecks of compost manure next the earth taken from the top of the holes, leaving that which was taken from the bottom to be placed on the top. On this piece of ground I set one hundred and thirty trees, having them exactly twenty feet distant from each other. The spring after setting the trees I planted the ground with corn, and the next spring sowed it with wheat, seeded it down to grass, and grafted the trees. The grafts grew rapidly the two first years after they were put in. I then put half a bushel of manure around each tree, and they still continue to flourish, the largest of them being six inches in circumference. I have lately ploughed the ground, and intend next spring to plant it with potatoes in order to hasten their growth.

The probability now is that in the course of five years more, my orchard will be quite productive, should it continue to flourish. The farmer who has not a young orchard coming on would do well immediately to choose a piece of ground, and after thoroughly preparing, set it out with apple trees.

No one ought to be afraid of devoting too much time or attention to an orchard, for if rightly managed it will, after a few years, am-

ply repay all the trouble and expense. An orchard set in ground that has once been ploughed, will not flourish unless it be ploughed every two or three years. Perhaps it is the better way to keep it in tillage the whole time, as the trees will certainly grow much faster, and produce more and better fruit. Beauty and order are desirable in an orchard as well as in other things. How much more pleasing it is to see it stand in regular order, the trees being set in rows perfectly straight each way, than to see them stand here and there in a promiscuous manner like the trees of a forest.

Much care should be taken during the first years of an orchard to give the trees a regular and proper shape. This must be done principally by pruning. Branches should not be permitted to come out from the body of the tree at a less distance than five or six feet from the ground. Cattle, sheep nor hogs should never be turned into a young orchard, as they will greatly injure the trees by rubbing against and browsing them. A FARMER.

Worcester, August, 1823.

FOR THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

Mr. Editor—It is well known that Intemperance has become a great and growing evil in our country, and it highly concerns every friend of humanity and social happiness to make every exertion in his power to arrest its progress. Many of our citizens have ruined themselves and their families and become a burden to society by a constant and too free use of ardent spirit. Many others are pursuing the same course, and will meet the same fate. The drunkard does not become such all at once; he is first a temperate man, then drinks pretty freely, and before he is aware becomes a toper.

It is very easy to get into the way of using strong drink, and every person ought to be cautious how he indulges in habits of this kind, lest he eventually be carried down with the current.

It has become a practice with most of our farmers to make a constant use of ardent spirit, particularly during the season of getting hay and grain. Many seem to imagine that it is as necessary, at this time, as their daily food. I formerly pursued this course, and considered it as really needful to drink rum three times in a day as to take food at the stated seasons. But I have learned from actual experience that this practice is not only unnecessary, but altogether worse than useless. For four years I have entirely dispensed with this habit. I feel much stronger, and can endure the heat and labor of the day better than formerly. When I used to take my morning dram and go out to mowing, I felt enlivened for a little while, but soon my strength began to fail, and before breakfast time I became quite exhausted. The same cause produced the same effect at other times in the day. Now my practice is to drink a pint of milk and water in the morning before I go to mowing, and I stand it well an hour and a half or two hours, then I can eat my breakfast with a good appetite, and work till noon without being much fatigued. After dinner I work till five o'clock, then I take supper instead of a glass of toddy, and can work the remainder of the day, and sleep well during the night.

Two of my neighbors, who occupy large farms, have adopted the same course, and are fully convinced of the utility of it. They too, have demonstrated, by fair experiment, that more work can be performed without rum than with it. If our farmers generally would adopt this method, there can be but very little doubt that they would be convinced that it is far preferable to the prevailing custom of the time.

W.

TO THE FARMERS OF ESSEX.

The Trustees of the Essex Agricultural Society offer the following Premiums, to be paid in the autumn of 1824:

For the management of a farm in its tillage, mowing, orcharding and pasturage; the quantity of land appropriated to each—the means and the manner of making, increasing, preserving and applying manures—their quantities—the respective crops and products—the quantity and management of the live stock—and the quantity of labor employed, to be detailed.

For the best,	*thirty dollars.*
For the 2d best,	*twenty five dollars.*
For the 3d best,	*twenty dollars.*
For the 4th best,	*fifteen dollars.*

In addition to the above, the Trustees of the Massachusetts Agricultural Society have offered a premium of thirty dollars, to be paid to the successful claimant of the first premium for the best management of a farm offered by any County Society: so that the first premium offered for the best management of a farm in this county, is now *sixty dollars.*

Persons intending to claim these premiums, will take notice that all claims for them must be entered with the Secretary of the Society on or before the seventh day of May, 1824.

The Committee of examination will view each of the farms that may be entered for premium, in the fourth week in June, and the first week in September; commencing this service on Monday each week. They will require each claimant to furnish them with a statement of the produce of his farm in 1823, as particular as may be practicable; and also an accurate statement of the produce of his farm in 1824. These written statements of produce, mode of cultivation, &c. together with satisfactory evidence of their correctness, must be handed to the Secretary of the Society, on or before the 20th of November, 1824, at which time they will be examined and the premiums will be awarded.

For further information respecting premiums offered and subjects for premiums, the Trustees refer to their pamphlet published in January, 1823; and they would remark generally, that all the premiums there offered, for which no particular time of payment is mentioned, will be paid in 1824, if claims sufficiently meritorious shall be presented.

Published by order of the Trustees.

J. W. PROCTOR, *Sec'y.*

September 2d, 1823.

The following information (says the N. Haven Herald) may not be uninteresting to the farmer.

It is customary, in many places, to use a thin piece of board with a short handle—the blade covered with sand, or some other substance, for the purpose of sharpening scythes in the field. It is commonly called a rifle. Take your rifle, if you have one, and scrape off the sand—grease it well, and then rub on it a small quantity of the white Oxyde of Tin, commonly called Flour of Putty. An ounce of it may be had at the druggist's for a small sum; and it is believed to be the best substance for scythes that has yet been discovered.

It is frequently made from the dross of a mixture of block tin and lead, and may generally be had of the pewterers. It has been used in some parts of the country, 40 or 50 years, for similar purposes; but the fact is not generally known.

BLEACHING LINEN.

We understand that a very great improvement in the method of bleaching linen and yarn has lately been made by Mr. Crookshank, of Dublin. As far as we have been able to ascertain its chief merit consists in the disengaging the chlorine from the oxy-muriate of lime—by which ingenious process it is enabled to act with its full force on the cloth and yarn. Independently of a considerable saving in the quantity of the bleaching liquor, by which the possibility of injuring the linen is prevented, this process combines some other very important advantages. It has already been tried on a considerable scale, and has met with the fullest approbation of a gentleman of chemical celebrity. We are informed that Mr. Crookshank has submitted his discovery to the Linen Board, and proposed to exhibit its advantages by a course of experiments.—*Dublin paper.*

From the Maine Intelligencer.

METEORIC STONE.

Mr. Dorr—As some account of a *Meteoric Stone* which lately fell in Nobleboro', may be interesting to many of your readers, I send you the following, as related by Mr. Asa Dinsmore, a very intelligent farmer by whom it was found.

As he was at work in his field, between 4 and 5 o'clock, P. M. on the 7th of August, his attention was arrested by an unusual noise in the sky directly over his head, like the firing of many guns in repeated succesion, and as loud as the report of a musket at the distance of 20 rods. This noise continued four or five minutes, the succession of the reports growing more rapid until the whole sounded like the roll of a drum. About five minutes after this sound had ceased, he heard something like the noise produced by the wind among the trees, and looking up to discover the cause, saw what he thought a cloud in quick motion, and at that instant heard something strike the ground near him. He proceeded to the spot, and found that about six rods from where he had been standing a stone had entered the earth to the depth of six inches, when striking another stone it broke in pieces. He thinks the stone would have weighed as much as four pounds. The stone is of an *ashy gray* color, covered with a coat of black resembling *oxide of iron.* Its granular texture resembles coarse sand-stone.

Receipts to cure Warts.—Take the inner rind of a lemon, steep it four-and-twenty hours in distilled vinegar, and apply it to the warts. It must not be left on the part above three hours at a time, and is to be applied afresh every day. Or divide a red onion, and rub the warts well with it, or anoint them with the milky juice of the herb mercury several times, and they will gradually waste away.

From the Massachusetts Agricultural Repository.

ESSAYS ON FLAX HUSBANDRY.

BY S. W. POMEROY, ESQ.
First Vice President of the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture.

No. III.

SOWING.

The seed should be got in as early as it is possible to prepare the ground. Dr. Deane observes that a slight frost after the plants are up will not injure them. For no crop is it more important that the seed should be equally distributed. Fortunately what has long been a desideratum is now attained. A machine for sowing small seeds broad cast, with perfect regularity, great expedition, and in any desired quantity, has lately been invented, and performs to great satisfaction.*

WEEDING.

Weeding is considered in Europe, and by good husbandmen in this country, as necessary to secure a good crop of flax, which is a very tender plant when young, and more easily checked in its progress by weeds than any other. It is not supposed to be injured by the clover and grass sown with it: on the contrary the Flemish farmers think them beneficial, by protecting the tender roots from drought, and keeping the weeds under. It should be carefully wed when the plants are three or four inches high: they are not then injured by the laborer going barefooted over them.

PULLING.

This should be performed as soon as the leaves begin to fall, and the stalks shew a bright yellow color, and when the bolls are turned a little brown. The seed will continue to ripen afterwards. When the flax is lodged it should be pulled immediately, in any stage of its growth, or it will be entirely lost; great care is requisite in sorting the different lengths, and keeping them separate till after the flax is hackled, or much waste will ensue in that process.

SAVING SEED.

As soon as the flax is dry enough to put under cover, the bolls should be rippled, as it is termed. A comb resembling the head of a rake, but with teeth longer and nearer together, made of hickory or oak, is fastened upon a block, and the flax, taken in parcels no larger than the hands can firmly grasp, is drawn through, and the bolls rippled off; attention to sorting at the same time should be continued. The bolls are to be riddled and winnowed immediately; spread thin on a clean floor, or on sheets, in the sun, and when sufficiently dry, and beginning to open, threshed. By this method the foul seeds are completely separated with little trouble, and good, clean seed is ready for an early market, often the best, without the use of expensive machinery to make it so. Here the operations of the farmer ought to end! The process or preparation being foreign to, and unconnected with his other pursuits; and which has been the greatest objection to extensive flax culture.—Can there be any reason why the farmer is to prepare his flax more than the hides of his cattle which he sends to the tanner? They are both chemical processes; and to dissolve the glutinous or resinous substances by which the fibres are attached to the stem, without impairing their strength, is perhaps as critical, and requires as much care and judgment, as to extract the animal juices from the hides, and fill the pores with tannin! In short, the flax grower and flax preparer and dresser, should be distinct professions. They are said to be so in Flanders and Holland, and were extensively so in Scotland, where the farmer sold his flax on the ground, or in sheaves at his barn or rick.

The preparation of flax by steeping is very general in the great flax growing countries in Europe, but it is not quite finished in the water. It remains spread some days on the grass, which is necessary to render it soft and give that silvery appearance so desirable. The destructive process of dew rotting, is most commonly practised in this country, and when water is resorted to, it is at an improper season, and the process imperfect; which is the cause of its being so harsh and brittle. Perhaps no part of the system requires such an allowance for difference of climate. In the humid atmosphere of Ireland, it is not very material when it is spread; but in this climate, when exposed to a July or August sun, every drop after a shower, becomes a burning-glass, and literally scorches the fibres; besides, such a highly putrid fermentation as will then take place in the water, though it separates the harle more speedily, not only injures it, but communicates a stain that renders the process of bleaching much more tedious and expensive.

The flax should not be put into the water till about the first of October, and remain from ten to fourteen days, according to the temperature of the weather, and should be taken out before the fibres will separate freely, spread on the grass, when the frost will very much assist the operation, and the flax exhibits a gloss and softness that it is impossible to give it otherwise.

The following method of preparing hemp, will apply with great force to the point under discussion. During the late war, an experienced ship-master in Connecticut, and who was also a good farmer, raised a crop of Hemp. As soon as it was dry enough to be stowed away, it was put under cover, and remained till October; was then put into clear, soft water, till the fibres would separate with some difficulty, when it was spread on the grass; the frost completed the operation, and when dry it was immediately secured. There was no putrid fermentation to deteriorate the harle, nor was it mildewed by being exposed to the weather, and when dressed, exhibited that fine silver green hue by which the best Russian hemp is distinguished;* and when worked up, was pronounced by the rope-makers to be equal to any hemp ever imported! Here is a lesson for our western brethren that is worth more to them than real mines of silver. Clear, soft, stagnant water is preferred in Europe. A canal, forty feet long, six broad, and four deep, is said to be sufficient for the purpose of an acre of flax, at one time. It should be formed on a clay, or some holding soil, where the water from a spring or brook can be conducted in with convenience; the expense would not be great, and on most farms suitable sites may be had. May not boiling or steaming be found the most advantageous process of preparing flax? The very superior sample of thread exhibited at Brighton, in 1818, for which Mrs. Crowninshield, of Danvers, received a premium, was spun from flax prepared by boiling! It appears by the "transactions of the Swedish Academy," that a method was practised in Sweden of preparing flax to resemble cotton, by boiling it ten hours in salt water, spreading on the grass, and frequently watering, by which it becomes soft and bleached. Boiling or steaming will not appear very formidable or expensive when we examine the subject. A box twenty feet long, six feet wide, and four deep, well constructed with stout plank, a boiler, from which a large tube extends into and communicates with the water in the box, will boil the produce of a quarter of an acre in a day, that is, if we allow double the room to boil in that is required for steeping. A steam pipe, instead of the tube, and having the top of the box well secured, would permit the process of steaming to go on. It is probable that by either method, grassing will be necessary to obtain soft flax. The yarns of which the sail-cloth is made at Paterson, are all steamed.—The navy board expressly forbid their being boiled in alkaline lye, as is usual in most manufactures of linen. It is from this precaution that their canvass has the pliable, oily feeling, which so much recommends it. It should not be lost sight of, that by boiling or steaming much time and expense will be saved in bleaching.

We arrive at the final process, Dressing, and in this our climate gives a decided advantage over Ireland, Flanders, or the north of Europe, where the flax is dried on hurdles, over a peat fire, in ovens, or kilns, requiring great care in regulating the heat, to prevent injury. All this trouble and hazard is obviated by our dry atmosphere and keen north-west winds.—Dr. Deane estimated the expense of dressing flax by hand at one third the product. I believe the present price does not much vary from his estimate. A respectable gentleman from Duchess county, New York, informed me, that mills or machines, impelled by water, have been erected there, that break and completely dress the flax for a toll of one tenth! It is said that one or more of them are in operation in the western part of this state. These mills were invented in Scotland, and are now said to be brought to great perfection. They are erected in all directions in the principal flax districts in Ireland, and notwithstanding the low price and limited demand for labor, are resorted to by the poorer classes of people, the dressing by hand being mostly abandoned. There are machines in England that dress the flax immediately from the field, without any preparation whatever. An account of them may be found in the 5th vol. of the Massachusetts Agricultural Journal. It appears, by the report of a committee of the House of Commons, that in 1817 they were in successful operation. A man and three children impelled the machines and dressed sixty pounds a day. We have no information of any further improvements.—

* Bennett's machine for sowing broad cast, a description and drawing of which are given in the Memoirs of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society, vol. 4, with ample testimony of its usefulness. It is pushed forward by a man, like a wheelbarrow, and will sow more than one acre in an hour, unimpeded by wind or light rain.

* The best *Riga Hemp*, supplied for the British Navy, is prepared by steeping, during which it is shifted three times.

Should they be susceptible of the application of water or steam power, in any degree proportionate, the advantages may be incalculable, but in the present inquiry, we place these machines, however desirable, entirely out of the question.

PRODUCT.

It is not uncommon in Great Britain and Ireland to obtain eight hundred pounds of flax from an acre! Six hundred pounds is estimated, in some districts, as an average; but it should be observed, that little, if any, seed is obtained. The average crop in New England, as far as our information extends, cannot be estimated at more than two hundred pounds, and six or eight bushels of seed. (We do not include the rich bottoms on the Connecticut, and some other rivers.) Dr. Deane was of opinion that four hundred pounds might be calculated on with proper management.

We think that four hundred pounds of good clean flax, and eight or ten bushels of seed, may fairly be assumed as a medium crop on favorable soils, where the culture becomes such an object as to make other farming operations subservient to it, and due attention is paid to the change of seed.

Those who grow flax to any extent are of opinion, that the seed, at the price it has been for some years past, pays for all the labor bestowed on the crop to the time the flax is ready to be prepared or rotted.

If we are correctly informed, flax of a fair quality cannot be imported from Ireland for less than fourteen cents per pound. And the price of the best of Russia flax delivered on ship board at St. Petersburg, is ten and a half cents per pound. The quality called "twelve headed" costs nine and an half cents on board.

The quality of flax raised in this country varies more than any other product; and of course the price, which is from six to eighteen cents: The medium about ten cents per pound.

It must be acknowledged, that no great exertions can be expected in the pursuits of any people, till "the prospect of reward sweetens their labor." And I anticipate the question that some may be disposed to ask, before they have finished the perusal of these essays, "where is the farmer to find a market, if flax is extensively cultivated?" We will ask where could the planter have found a market for his cotton if machines had not been invented for spinning it? And how could he have supplied it, if the labor of two thousand hands had been required to clean it of the seeds, that is now performed by the Cotton Gin invented by Whitney? We have shown that the expense of dressing flax has been reduced from one third to one tenth of its value,* and it is a fact well established, that there are now in the country, machines for spinning flax, that perform as well, and more expeditiously, except for the finer threads, than those for spinning cotton! The Paterson sail cloth is fabricated entirely from yarns spun and twisted by machinery, assisted by as little manual labor as cotton machines. In those manufactories are six hundred spindles. In the state of New York and in Pennsylvania about three hundred more are employed for sewing thread, sheeting, bedticks, shoe thread, twine, &c. The expense of labor, after the flax is hackled, in attending a machine of twenty-four spindles for spinning common shoe thread, is thirty-three cents per day, spinning on an average twenty-four pounds a day, or one pound a day for each spindle! equal, as it is said, to the production of a cotton spindle for five or six days!

Can any thing be wanting but the application of power looms for weaving linen, to place the manufacture nearly upon an equality with cotton? And is there any doubt but they can be so applied?

The perfection of cotton spinning machinery, and the invention of power looms, with such improvements as are exhibited at Waltham, it is well known are about to produce an entire revolution in the India trade! If they can stop the spindle and the shuttle of the Hindoo, who is supported upon a handful of rice a day in a climate where little is required for clothing or shelter, what must be the effect of corresponding machines in the linen manufacture, upon the Russian and the German? There is probably at this moment, a million tons of American shipping clothed with Russian canvass! What, but the raw material of good quality, is required to elicit Capital, to manufacture in a few years even to compete with European nations in the linen market?

The exportation of linen from Germany to North and South America has been and is at present, of vast amount! The single province of Silesia has sent in one year to Hamburgh and other ports, linens to the value of nearly five millions of dollars to be shipped by the circuitous route of Cadiz, to the Spanish colonies. These customers are at our doors. The United States possess the "Golden Gates of this Commerce," and with exertions well directed to her agriculture, Europe will be obliged to surrender the keys.

* The usual toll for ginning Cotton in Alabama, we are informed, is one twelfth.

From the Old Colony Memorial.

No branch of science, perhaps, more deeply interests the practical farmer and fruiterer, than Entomology. It is an object of the first importance to investigate the natural history of those insects which are peculiarly injurious to us in any way; and perhaps no country on the earth more abounds with such insects than our own; yet their history has hitherto excited but little attention. The last year was remarkable in this place, (and more or less thro' the county) for the devastation made by the grub-worm on almost every green thing. The fact was noticed in your paper at the time, and the patriotism of the Roxbury Farmer, "ever tremblingly alive" to the interests of our agriculture, impelled him to invite information "of the kind of insect capable of making such extensive devastation." A description of the grub worm was given, so far as facts could then support it, with a pledge to observe its progress, its habitudes of life, and if practicable its metamorphosis, which was then assumed as a matter of course.

With these views, on the approach of cold weather, viz. on the 18th of October, I put six of them into a box with earth, and had them placed in the cellar secure from frost. On the 30th October, on examining those in the fields, I found they had buried themselves deeper in the earth, say four or five inches. On the 12th November, and again the 21st December, in ploughing those fields which had before been eaten by them, many were turned up by the plough, at five or six inches deep; and in other places they are said to be found in all depths, from six inches to three feet. The greatest depth at which I have at any time found any, was about 18 inches, in digging a hole to set a post; from these, and many other inspections, I could never find any that had assumed the chrysalis state, but were found at all sizes, from half an inch, to one and half inch long in the grub.

Those I put into the cellar, I occasionally watered to keep them from perishing, and in April had them brought into the open air, and on examination could observe no visible change. They were then placed in the garden, and the box covered with a sod to afford them food, and were inspected weekly, without perceiving any alteration, except wasting, until the 15th of July, when finding two of the number dead, I gave liberty to the others. Thus my anticipation of observing their metamorphosis was disappointed.

In connexion with the subject I will state another observation made in July. Having occasion to move some manure from the barn to prepare a piece of ground for raising the round or English turnip, I found an unusual number of the large white worm, (such as are generally found in similar situations, and are considered harmless.) I was induced to subject several of them to an examination through the microscope, and found them perfectly similar to this grub, in all points, the number of the *incisors* and *spiracles* the same, the position and number of the legs and antennæ corresponding, and no perceptible difference except they might *possibly be a little larger*, or certainly of the largest size, and were also infested with a *parasitical animalcula*, in appearance through the microscope resembling the turnip fly, but invisible to the naked eye. Now these from their situations must be a progeny of annual growth, for the manure, in which they were recumbent, was the collection of the preceding winter and spring.

The larva of the cock-chaffer, so analogous to the grub-worm under consideration, is ascertained to continue in its larva state four years, before it assumes the chrysalis; and on the fifth it becomes metamorphosed into the *imago* or parent. This is the fifth year since the ravages by this insect where noticed here, and its resemblance to the larva of the cock-chaffer being so striking, its habits and ravages so correspondent, it was assumed to be the same; hence the anticipation, that on selecting some of those that where full grown, and preserving them through the winter, of witnessing their transformation into the *imago*, the beetle probably, from their crustaceous head.

Perhaps it may not be irrelevant to the subject, to conjecture, that the devastation of the three or four last years may be intimately connected with the character of the seasons, which being peculiarly arid, may have driven them to the necessity of seeking moisture from the vegetable creation, to preserve their own existence. The present is a wet season, and although the worms are found to be as numerous in the ground as heretofore, they are perfectly innoxious; no vegetable appearing to be injured from their presence, altho' 18 or 20 are taken in digging one hill of potatoes.

Altho' these facts can throw little or no light on the natural history; the habitudes of life; the character, the change, the metamorphosis, of this insect, I can't but hope they will draw the attention of some one better qualified to pursue the research than PLYMOTHEUS.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1823.

Extracts from a work lately published by WILLIAM COBBETT, entitled "*Cottage Economy*," with occasional remarks on some of the statements of the author.

[*Continued from page* 39.]

"The man, who is doing well," says Mr. C. "who is in good health, who has a blooming and dutiful and cheerful and happy family about him, and who passes his day of rest among them, is not to be made to believe that he was born to be miserable, and that poverty, the certain reward of laziness, is to secure him a crown of glory. Far be it from me to recommend a disregard of even the outward observances of the ceremonies of religion; but can it be *religion* to believe that God has made us to be wretched and dejected, and to regard as marks of his grace the poverty and misery that invariably attend our neglect to use the means of obtaining a competence in worldly things? Can it be *religion* to regard as blessings those things, those very things, which God expressly numbers amongst his curses? Poverty never finds a place amongst the *blessings* promised by God. His blessings are of a directly opposite description; flocks, herds, corn, wine and oil; a smiling land; a rejoicing people; abundance for the body, and gladness of the heart; these are blessings which God promises to the industrious, the sober, the careful, and the upright. Let no man, then, believe, that to be poor and wretched is a mark of God's favor; and let no man remain in that state, if he, by any honest means can rescue himself from it.

"Poverty leads to all sorts of evil consequences. *Want*, horrid want, is the great parent of crime. To have a dutiful family, the father's principle of rule must be *love* and not *fear*. His sway must be gentle, or he will have an unwilling and short-lived obedience. But it is given to few men to be gentle and good humored amidst the various torments attendant on pinching poverty. A competence is, therefore, the first thing to be thought of; it is the foundation of all good in the laborer's dwelling; without it little but misery can be expected. "*Health*, *peace* and *competence*," one of the wisest of men regards as the only things needful to men; but the two former are scarcely to be had without the latter. *Competence* is the foundation of happiness and of exertion. Beset with wants, having a mind continually harassed with fears of starvation, who can act with energy, who can calmly think? To provide a *good living* therefore, for himself and family, is the *very first duty* of every man. "Two things," says Agur, "have I asked; deny me them not before I die: remove far from me vanity and lies; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: lest I be full and deny thee; or lest I be poor and steal."

This is an excellent discourse, and worthy the attention of the *statesman* as well as the moralist. Poverty causes a people not only to be wretched, but to be wicked. Extreme poverty is not only the mother of misery but the nurse of crime. A man in very straitened circumstances must be almost more than human if he does not become a misanthrope, a man-hater, "fit for treason, stratagem and spoils." He vents his spleen on every sensible object around him, and every living thing that is so unfortunate as to be dependent on him, or within reach of his annoyance, is sure to feel the effect of his savage disposition. Like the arch enemy of mankind he seeks for some alleviation of his own sufferings in causing others to suffer. Poverty is no doubt the chief fomenter of the rebellions and atrocities of the lower orders of the Irish. They feel misery, and wish to inflict what they feel; according to the vulgar but correct adage "misery loves company."—If you see a man beating his horse unreasonably and unmercifully, you may generally conclude that his poverty has at least a share in causing his cruelty. Poverty too is an enemy to economy and a friend to extravagance. The poor man buys dear and sells cheap. He generally buys on trust, and must pay well for the risque the seller runs in trusting him. The poor man sells cheap, because he must raise money to supply his immediate and urgent necessities. He is often extravagant because he is desperate. He sees no prospect of obtaining a comfortable livelihood and maintaining a respectable standing in society, and therefore if he obtains a little money, he throws it away on transient, and perhaps criminal gratifications.—"A dollar or two," he says, "will make no material change for the better in my situation or prospects, and therefore I may as well spend it and take the comfort of it." Such is the suggestion of poverty, not always expressed in words, but often present in the minds of many who are poor, because they are extravagant, and extravagant because they are poor. Judicious precepts and suggestions on rural economy may save persons of this description from the gulf which awaits them if they proceed in their present courses, and may prove highly useful to the rich as well as the poor, by promoting comfort and accommodation, as well as lessening expense.

Mr. Cobbett commences the body of his work with an essay on "Brewing Beer." It seems that family-brewing is not so much practised in Great Britain as formerly, and he tells us that "the drink, which has come to supply the place of beer has, in general, been *tea*. It is notorious," says Mr. C. "that tea has no *useful strength* in it; that it contains nothing *nutritious*; that it, besides being *good* for nothing, has *badness* in it, because it is well known to produce want of sleep in many cases, and, in all cases, to shake and weaken the nerves. It is, in fact, a weaker kind of laudanum, which enlivens for the moment and deadens afterwards. At any rate it communicates no strength to the body; it does not, in any degree, assist in affording what labor demands. It is, then, of no *use*."

Mr. Cobbett's precepts are frequently better than his practical applications of them; and much that he says against tea we think quite erroneous, and much more not applicable to any class of people above the condition of strolling beggars, and paupers supported by the charity of the public. Tea, being a favorite beverage of ours, we shall take arms in its behalf, even against so formidable a champion as Mr. Cobbett. We are sure to have the ladies on our side, as well as the more sedate, judicious and temperate part of our own sex.

An English work of high authority says "We have heard much of the bad effects of tea, but we have never felt nor observed them. If tea were so pernicious as it has been represented by some, its effects must certainly be evident in China, where it is drank by all ranks; yet so far from being thought hurtful in that country, it is held in high estimation. We are told by those who have written the history of China, that inflammatory diseases are less frequent there than in many other countries, which is ascribed solely to the liberal use of tea." But let us hear Mr. Cobbett further on this subject.

"It must be evident to every one that the practice of tea-drinking must render the frame feeble, and unfit to encounter hard labor or severe weather, while, as I have shown, it deducts from the means of replenishing the belly and covering of the back. Hence succeeds softness, an effeminacy, a seeking after the fire side, a lurking in the bed, and, in short, all the characteristics of idleness, for which, in this case, real want of strength furnishes an apology. Tea drinking *fills the public house*, makes the frequenting of it habitual, corrupts boys as soon as they are able to move from home, and does little less for the girls to whom the gossip of the tea table is no bad preparatory school for the brothel. At the very least, it teaches them idleness. The everlasting dawdling about with the slops of the tea tackle gives them a relish for nothing that requires strength and activity. When they go from home, they know how to do nothing that is useful. To brew, to bake, to make butter, to milk, to rear poultry; to do any earthly thing of any use they are wholly unqualified."

We do not perceive how a girl's knowing how to make tea must prevent her from learning how "to brew, to bake, to make butter," &c. But we will now introduce some other antagonists of Mr. Cobbett.

An able writer in the Encyclopedia Brittanica observes that "it must be observed by all that *tea is an antidote against intemperance, and that he who relishes the one will seldom run into the other.* Raynal says that *tea has contributed more to the sobriety of this nation than the severest laws, the most eloquent harangues of Christian orators, or the best treatises of morality.* We have no doubt but it may be hurtful to some particular constitutions in particular circumstances;

but we suspect that the nervous disorders, so often attributed to tea, are rather owing to hereditary diseases, to want of exercise, and to irregularity in food or sleep, than to tea."

Dr. Leake, an English physician of celebrity, asserts that "weak tea, drank too hot will enervate, and if too strong may prove equally pernicious by affecting the head and stomach But when it is drunk in moderation, and not too warm, with a large addition of milk, I believe it will seldom prove hurtful, but on the contrary salutary. After study or fatigue it is a most refreshing and grateful repast; it quenches thirst and cheers the spirits, without heating the blood; *and the pleasing society in which we so often partake of it is no inconsiderable addition to its value; for whatever affords rational pleasure to the mind will always contribute to bodily health.*"

In addition to the foregoing testimonies in favor of tea, we can, and perhaps may hereafter, cite the opinions of other eminent men, including Drs. Rush and Cooper. We have time and room at present only to say that if tea, as the Abbe Raynal observes, has any effect to counteract a propensity to the inordinate use of intoxicating liquors, it is very patriotic to encourage its consumption in the United States, especially if it be true, (as we believe it is) that the tea plant may be successfully cultivated in our own territories.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

PRODIGIOUS OX!

A London paper of July 19, advertises that there is to be seen in that city the "LINCOLNSHIRE OX, fed by the Right Hon. Lord Yarborough," &c. The live weight of this animal is no less than 464 stone, which, at 8 lbs. a stone is 3712 pounds!! This ox was a descendant from the famous Bull Comet, and the Cow called Countess, of the improved Short Horns. He is of the same breed with the Bull *Admiral*, belonging to the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, and of *Denton* and *Cœlebs*, the former owned by Stephen Williams, Esq. of Northborough, and the latter by Col. Jaques, of Charlestown, Mass. The London paper says that "the Lincolnshire Ox was allowed by the best judges to be near 40 stone heavier than the famous Durham Ox, and is considered the largest, and to have the greatest proportion of meat upon the least bone, of any ox ever submitted to the public."

FOREIGN.

Spain.—We are apprehensive that Spanish Freedom is now hobbling "on its last legs," as the phrase is.—For our part we can only say that we wish it may recover, but have nearly given it over. We expect no invitation to its funeral, but feel inclined to drop a tear to the memory of what it might have been. Ignorance and superstition, the plagues of nations as well as of individuals, have, we fear, smothered in its cradle this Child of Promise, the Desire of Nations, and the Darling of every man, who is not a brute. But there is this consolation left to the friends of humanity, to wit, if the Spaniards do not acquire freedom, it must be because they are not worthy of it. They have the power, if they had the will, to secure its blessings to themselves and their posterity. We are tired of and disgusted with details of the treachery of Spanish leaders, and the marches of French invaders, over a prostrate and passive population, who appear to have taken a share of the primitive curse denounced against the serpent "upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life." If they should ever raise their heads as high as a black snake in pursuit of its prey, we will take further notice of them; till then —let them go.

Portugal has settled down under her resuscitated despotism as quietly as a setting-hen, and dares not even exercise the privilege of a goose to hiss at those who annoy her. A Lisbon article of July 20th, says "the monarchy is settled on the most lasting basis. The heroic queen is adored, and Gen. Amaranthe and his division idolized," &c. The court has no doubt become a very Pantheon of goddesses, gods, &c. Divinities will swarm, and prove as profitable to those over whom they preside as were the frogs on a certain memorable occasion to the inhabitants of Egypt. So be it—we shall not waste our paragraphs on trumpery of that description.

Bad news from Africa.—A brig lately arrived at this port brings information that the American colonists at Monrobia, in Africa, were nearly all sick of fever. Dr. Ayres, who went out to assume the government, was taken sick a few days after his arrival, and left very ill when the Oswego sailed. The Rev. Mr. Ashmun had partially recovered from his late illness. A fort erected by Capt. Spence had disappeared in a tornado.

DOMESTIC.

We have very little domestic intelligence this week worth relating, a circumstance we do not regret, for we have as little room as news.

The annual *Cattle Show* for Worcester County is announced in the Worcester papers for the 8th of October next. The Committee of Arrangements, appointed by the Trustees of the Agricultural Society, consists of the following gentlemen: Levi Lincoln, Theophilus Wheeler, Thomas Chamberlain, Jonathan Davis, Nathan Howe, John W. Lincoln, and Edward D. Bangs.

Longevity.—There are now living in the vicinity of Matanzas, Cuba, a couple of natives of that place, who have lived in wedlock more than *one hundred years*. The husband is *one hundred and twenty-eight*, and the wife *one hundred and twenty-six years*. They both enjoy great bodily health, but their mental faculties are impaired.

Mr. George B. English, of Boston, who was several years in the service of the Pacha of Egypt, has returned to Europe, with a view of taking part in the Peninsula war.

It is estimated in the Arkansas paper, that the damage sustained by the planters on the Mississippi in consequence of the late inundation, is not less than three millions of dollars.

Counterfeits.—Four Dollar Bills of New Hampshire Union Bank, are in circulation pretty well executed, except that the paper is rather darker, and the impression brighter than the genuine. A close inspection will readily detect them.

One of our late English papers mentions as a fact, that a poor woman, with an infant at her breast, employed in the grounds of Mr. Bailey, of Swanscombe, Kent, in podding peas, previous to her daily labors, suckled the child, and left it in a hedge near where she was at work. On her return some time after to look for her child, she was struck with horror at finding it dead. With the wretched mother's consent, the child was opened by a surgeon, and a *snake* found in its stomach. It is supposed, that soon after the mother had suckled the infant, the snake, attracted by the milk remaining on the child's lips, had entered the mouth and suffocated it.—*Gazette.*

☞The following numbers of the first volume of the N. E. Farmer are wanted at this Office, for which a generous price will be given, viz.—No. 14, 5 copies—No. 32, 2 do.—No. 45, 2 do.

To Correspondents.—We have received a communication on the cultivating and curing of Hops, which we believe to be valuable, and will with pleasure give it a place in our next.

The note signed "A Subscriber," is also received, and we will give all the information in our power to afford, relative to the subjects of his inquiry, probably in our next number.

☞Subscribers who have not paid for the *first* vol. of the Farmer, are requested to forward us the amount due immediately; and those who wish to save 50 cents must pay for the *second* vol. by the 1st of October.

NOTICE.

THE subscribers being about making different arrangements in their business, feel under the necessity of calling on those indebted to them to make payment. All those indebted by Notes previous to the first of July, 1823, are respectfully requested to pay them; and all indebted by Book Account are desired to settle and close their accounts by notes or otherwise without delay.

☞Those whose debts have been of some time standing must consider this as all the notice necessary previous to collection in the course of law.

STEARNS & CREHORE.

Waltham, Sept. 3, 1823.

PRICES OF COUNTRY PRODUCE, &c.

[Revised and corrected every Friday.]

		FROM D. C.	TO D. C.
ASHES, pot, 1st sort,	ton.	135 00	140 00
pearl do.		135 00	
BEANS, white,	bush	90	1 00
BEEF, mess, 200 lbs.	bbl.	9 00	9 50
cargo, No 1,		8 75	9 00
" No 2,		6 75	7 00
BUTTER, inspect. 1st qual.	lb.	11	13
" 2d qual.		9	11
small kegs, family,		13	14
CHEESE, new milk		8	10
FLAX		8	9
FLAX SEED	bush	65	70
FLOUR, Baltimore, Howard St.	bbl.	6 75	7 50
Genessee		7 00	7 12
Rye, best		3 50	3 75
GRAIN, Rye	bush	60	63
Corn		55	60
Barley		68	70
Oats		35	37
HOGS' LARD, 1st sort	lb.	9	11
HOPS, No 1, Inspection of 1822		13	15
LIME,	cask	1 00	1 12
OIL, Linseed, American	gal.	60	65
PLAISTER PARIS	ton.	2 75	3 00
PORK, Navy Mess	bbl.	12 00	12 50
Bone Middlings		14 50	15 00
Cargo, No 1,		12 00	12 50
Cargo, No 2,		11 00	11 50
SEEDS, Herd's Grass, 1822,	bush	2 00	
Clover	lb.	7	8
WOOL, Merino, full blood, washed		55	65
do do unwashed		40	50
do 3-4 washed		45	55
do 1-2 do		40	45
Native do		35	37
Pulled, Lamb's, 1st sort		55	60
do Spinning, 1st sort		45	50
PROVISION MARKET.			
BEEF, best pieces	lb.	10	12
PORK, fresh		5	10
VEAL,		6	10
LAMB,		4	6
POULTRY,		12	14
BUTTER, keg & tub, family,		15	16
lump, best		20	
EGGS,	doz.	12	14
MEAL, Rye,	bush	75	80
Indian,		70	75
POTATOES, new,		37	42
CIDER, liquor, new	bbl.	1 50	2 00
HAY, best,	ton.	15 00	18 00

PROVIDENCE.

ALMIGHTY CAUSE! 'tis thy preserving care
That keeps thy works forever fresh and fair;
The sun, from thy superior radiance bright,
Eternal sheds his delegated light;
Lends to his sister orb inferior day,
And paints the silver moon's alternate ray:
Thy hand the waste of hoary time renews;
Thou shedd'st the tepid morning's balmy dews;
When raging winds the blacken'd deep deform,
Thy spirit rides commission'd in the storm;
Bids at thy will the slackening tempest cease,
And lulls the angry elements to peace.
When lightning streams tremendous from the skies,
And pestilence the healing art defies,
Thy hand directs, thy word the blow suspends,
In strict accordance to omniscient ends.

See how associate round their central sun
Their faithful rounds the circling planets run;
Still equi-distant, constantly career,
Exactly tracing their appointed sphere.
Mark how the moon our flying orb pursues,
While from the sun her monthly light renews;
Breathes her wide influence o'er the world below,
And bids the tides alternate ebb and flow.
See how in course the shifting seasons rise,
And shed their potency o'er earth and skies;
Each takes its progress and its change from THEE,
All mark the presence of the Deity!

From THEE all human actions take their springs,
The rise of empires, and the fall of kings!
See the vast theatre of time display'd,
What *has existed* by Almighty aid,—
With pomp the shining images succeed,
What leaders triumph! and what thousands bleed!
Perform their parts by Providence assign'd,
Their pride, their passions, to thy ends inclin'd:
Awhile they glitter in the face of day,
Then at thy nod the phantoms pass away;
No traces left of all the busy scene,
But that Remembrance says—*the things have been!*

From the Poultney (Vermont) Gazette.

Messrs. Editors—I observed in your paper an inquiry relative to the proper method of treating the disease occasioned by the poison of ground ivy. The subject is important from the great number of persons attacked annually by this affection, which usually occasions a protracted confinement and disability; and in some instances incurable ulcers and even mortification of the lower extremities.

It is a curious fact that something like one half of the persons who are exposed to the cause of this disease are unsusceptible of its influence. I take the liberty to call the attention of your readers to the subject, chiefly with a view to state a single fact which I have on the authority of a very intelligent gentleman in this vicinity. He informs me, that for thirty years, he has known that this disease may be prevented, or rather cured, in an early stage, simply by the application of heat. His method is when he or any of his laborers have been employed in hay-making where the ivy abounds; and when in a day or two after their feet and ancles begin to exhibit marks of the disease, such as swelling, redness, heat and pain; to place them before the fire in a situation as hot as can possibly be borne without burning. This is to be done several times successively, and he assures me, that every vestige of the disease uniformly disappears in a few hours. This treatment, however, is exclusively adapted to the forming stage of the disease; and to have its full effect, should be applied during the first 24 hours.—It should be stated, that although the authority for the above facts is unquestionable, yet they receive additional support from the analogy familiar to most surgeons that specific inflammations are generally cured in the incipient stages by the application of stimulants. In the second stage of poisoned legs, when small ulcers of the skin and subjacent parts begin to appear, and when the inflammation and swelling are considerable, I have seen the most decided benefit from the application of soft soap and cold water. The limb should be placed in a position as high or higher than the body, and covered with soft soap every two or three hours. Cold water should then be applied in a constant stream, or cloths dipped in cold water and changed every few minutes for 18 or 20 hours. This treatment, occasionally aided by bleeding and purging in cases where feverish symptoms make their appearance, rarely fails to remove the disease. D. PALMER.

Poultney, Aug. 25, 1823.

☞ A correspondent of the New England Farmer, vol. ii, page 6, asserts that *lime water* is the best remedy for poison by ground ivy.

Extract from a Sermon on "Domestic Happiness," by the Rev. William Jay.

Oh! what so refreshing, so soothing, so satisfying, as the placid joys of home!

See the traveller—does duty call him for a season to leave his beloved circle? The image of his earthly happiness continues vividly in his remembrance: it quickens him to diligence: it makes him hail the hour which sees his purpose accomplished, and his face turned towards home: it communes with him as he journies, and he hears the promise which causes him to hope. "Thou shalt know also that thy tabernacle shall be in peace; and thou shalt visit thy tabernacle and not sin." O the joyful reunion of a divided family—the pleasures of renewed interview and conversation after days of absence!

Behold the man of science—He drops the labor and painfulness of research—closes his volume—smooths his wrinkled brows—leaves his study—and unbending himself stoops to the capacities, yields to the wishes, and mingles with the diversions of his children.

"He will not blush that has a father's heart,
To take in childish play a childish part;
But bends his sturdy neck to play the toy
That youth takes pleasure in, to please his boy."

Take the man of trade—What reconciles him to the toil of business? What enables him to endure the fastidiousness and impertinence of customers?—What rewards him for so many hours of tedious confinement? Bye-and-bye the season of intercourse will arrive; he will behold the desire of his eyes and the children of his love for whom he resigns his ease; and in their welfare and smiles he will find his recompence.

Yonder comes the laborer—He has borne the burden and heat of the day: the descending sun has released him from his toil: and he is hastening home to enjoy repose. Half way down the lane, by the side of which stands his cottage, his children run to meet him. One he carries and one he leads. The companion of his humble life is ready to furnish him with his plain repast. See—his toil-worn countenance assumes an air of cheerfulness! his hardships are forgotten; fatigue vanishes; he eats, and is satisfied. The evening fair, he walks with uncovered head around his garden—enters again, and retires to rest; and "the rest of a laboring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much." Inhabitant of this lowly dwelling! who can be indifferent to thy comfort? Peace be to this house?

"Let not ambition mock their useful toil,
Their homely joys and destiny obscure;
Nor grandeur hear with a disdainful smile
The short and simple annals of the poor."

"They marry and are given in marriage."

In looking over our budget of newspapers, some hundreds of marriage notices come under our eye, evidencing that the fabled blind boy is not less busy in our regions than he was in the old antideluvian climes. What a world of pleasant thoughts these notices bring to mind—sweet sunny days of hope, and evening courtships, and love ditties, and songs, and stolen kisses, and the whole train of bright attendants on the young dreaming days of but half enjoyed affection, with the little shades of jealousy and disappointment which come to mellow the scene and hasten the ripening harvest. Then the trembling promise—the cautious concealment, and the careful and gradual disclosure—the scores of invitations—the smoking table, loaded with turkies and ducks and pound cake—the round faced parson—and the half blushing half smiling bride,

Who thinks herself vera weel off,
To be woo'd an married and a'.

The printer has but poor picking out of the dish, it is true, unless, like ourselves, he has a most sensitive fancy, and can feast on these ideal dainties till his stomach is satisfied. We have sometimes thought that the printer ought to be invited to the wedding supper, but then, as it might involve the matter of politics, perhaps it is best as it is.—*Emporium.*

A pleasant climate.—The following is the calendar of a Siberian or Lapland year:—June 23, snow melts; July 1, snow gone; July 9, fields quite green; July 17, plants full growth; July 25, plants in flower; August 18, snow, continuing from August 18 to June 23, following.

The lord of the village being at dinner, allowed one of its tenants to stand, while he conversed with him. "What news, my friend?" said the squire—"None that I know of," replied the farmer, "except that a sow of mine has had a litter of *thirteen* pigs, and she has only *twelve* teats." "What will the thirteenth do?" asked the lord. "Do as I do," returned Hodge, "it will stand and look on while the others eat."

TERMS OF THE FARMER.

☞ Published every Saturday, at THREE DOLLARS per annum, payable at the end of the year—but those who pay within *sixty days* from the time of subscribing will be entitled to a deduction of FIFTY CENTS.

☞ No paper will be discontinued (unless at the discretion of the Publisher) until arrearages are paid.

☞ Agents who procure seven subscribers, and become responsible for the payment, will be entitled to a copy gratis, and in the same proportion for a larger number.